

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

Case No. 1:19-CR-50

v.

Hon. Janet T. Neff

DR. RICHARD SAMUEL PIAZZA,

Defendant.

_____ /

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Pursuant to W.D. Mich. LCrR 11.1 and upon a request of the district court, I conducted a felony plea hearing in this matter on September 10, 2020, after receiving the written consent of the defendant, the defendant's attorney, and the attorney for the government. These consents were also placed on the record in open court.

Defendant Dr. Richard Samuel Piazza is charged in Counts 2, 3 and 4 of a Superseding Indictment with the unlawful distribution of prescription controlled substances. On the basis of the record made at the hearing, I found that defendant was competent to enter pleas of guilty and that the pleas were knowledgeable and voluntary with a full understanding of each of the rights waived by the defendant, that the defendant fully understood the nature of the charges and the consequences of the pleas, and that the defendant's pleas had a sufficient basis in fact which contained all of the elements of the offenses charged.

I also inquired into the plea agreement. I found the plea agreement to have been knowingly and voluntarily made and found that it fully reflected all of the promises made by the

parties.

Accordingly, I accepted the pleas of guilty, subject to final acceptance of the pleas by the District Judge, and I specifically reserved acceptance of the plea agreement for the District Judge. I ordered the preparation of a presentence investigation report.

Recommendation

Based upon the foregoing, I respectfully recommend that the defendant's pleas of guilty to Counts 2, 3 and 4 of the Superseding Indictment be accepted, that the Court adjudicate the defendant guilty of those charges, and that the written plea agreement be accepted at, or before, the time of sentencing.

Dated: September 10, 2020

/s/ Ray Kent
United States Magistrate Judge

NOTICE TO PARTIES

You have the right to *de novo* review by the district judge of the foregoing findings. Any application for review must be in writing, must specify the portions of the findings or proceedings objected to, and must be filed and served no later than fourteen (14) days after the plea hearing. *See* W.D. Mich. LCrR 11.1(b). A failure to file timely objections may result in the waiver of any further right to seek appellate review of the plea-taking procedure. *See Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140 (1985); *Neuman v. Rivers*, 125 F.3d 315, 322-23 (6th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 522 U.S. 1030 (1997); *United States v. Walters*, 638 F.2d 947 (6th Cir. 1981).